



GRANT COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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August 8, 2023

Dear Grant Reviewers:

The Grant County Board of County Commissioners collectively serve as the executive and legislative authority in Grant County, Washington. We strive to use sound judgement and best practices to assure that the business, services, and functions of the county proceed with efficiency and integrity. We are committed to supporting the growth of businesses and services that will provide county residents with the standard of living and quality of life they seek. Part of that work includes attracting and retaining strong companies that will bring equitable benefits to all residents of Grant County.

In that vein, the Grant County Commissioners are fully supportive of the BATT (Battery and Allied Technology Transformation) Tech Hub project proposal inclusive of its vision of *Accelerating U.S. leadership in next generation batteries, allied technologies, and their transformational impact on high-value sectors of the regional and global economy*, and four supporting strategies.

The Commissioners have read the BATT Tech Hub proposal and are committed to executing the BATT Tech Hub mission as well as fulfilling the roles, responsibilities, and commitments as described in the application. For the Commissioners, this means staying informed about the work of the BATT Tech Hub, participating in meetings related to the work of the BATT Tech Hub as invited, and supporting and adopting policies and procedures that will support the growth and sustainability of an ecosystem in Grant County where businesses involved in batteries and related technologies can thrive.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF GRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rob Jones, Chair

Cindy Carter

Danny E. Stone

:bjv

CC: Bryce Humphreys, Big Bend Community College

Danny E. Stone
District 1

Rob Jones
District 2

Cindy Carter
District 3

BATT (Battery and Allied Technology Transformation) Tech Hub

Accelerating U.S. leadership in next generation batteries, allied technologies, and their transformational impact on high-value sectors of the regional and global economy.

The Columbia Basin in rural central Washington (WA) is an emerging U.S. center for the manufacturing of advanced battery materials. In 2022, nearly \$1 billion of new private and federal investment was announced for facilities expansion in Moses Lake, WA by Group 14 Technologies, Sila Nanotechnologies, and OneD Battery Sciences. Major corporate investors include automotive manufacturers Porsche, Mercedes, and Microsoft. The U.S. DOE provided \$200 million of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to grow domestic battery supply chains.

Initial production of silicon-based anode materials in Moses Lake will be used in the luxury automotive segment starting in 2025, and later scaled into commodity vehicle markets. At the same time, there is a clear RD&D pathway for this class of materials to offer breakthrough performance with energy densities 50% greater than today, and much faster charging. The BATT Tech Hub will accelerate this RD&D pathway and the transformational impact next-gen batteries and allied technologies will have on Washington's leading energy-intensive export sectors: aerospace, medium/heavy duty trucks, maritime, and cloud computing.

The BATT Tech Hub seeks to drive technology innovation in advanced batteries and allied technologies, while accelerating the pace of new energy technology adoption in Washington's leading energy-intensive incumbent industries. Our four strategies for achieving these goals are: (i) Vertically-Integrated Requirements Teams, (ii) Technology Testbeds, (iii) Business & Entrepreneur Support, and (iii) Workforce Development.

Vertically-Integrated Requirements Teams (VIRTs) bring together the expertise needed to set sector-specific requirements for advanced energy system performance, laying out a technology roadmap for goals, timelines, and performance metrics, then tracking progress toward sector-specific impact. The BATT Tech Hub anticipates having initial VIRTs tied to leading WA sectors of aerospace, medium/heavy duty vehicles, datacenters, and a VIRT for infrastructure to scale power in the rapidly growing Moses Lake industrial cluster. VIRTs will inform Testbed, Business Support, and Workforce Development strategies, and be managed by the CleanTech Alliance's BUILT Innovation Cluster Program, an industry-led economic development program which advances the development and adoption of clean technologies to decarbonize elements of the human-built environment.

Technology Testbeds are open access facilities capable of fabricating, simulating, testing, and validating potential innovations that advance the VIRT roadmaps. BATT stakeholders have discussed a need for Testbeds tied to battery pouch cell fabrication, power infrastructure for fast charging electric trucks and planes, as well as tools and strategies for developing non-wired alternatives that can defer transmission and distribution investments while accommodating rapid growth in industrial electricity. BATT Testbeds will be operated by the Washington Clean Energy Testbeds (currently serving 120 companies).

Business & Entrepreneur Support will be provided by scaled up programs within the CleanTech Alliance. The Alliance co-leads the Cascadia CleanTech Accelerator, a program that delivers mentorship, curriculum, connections, and funding opportunities for early-stage cleantech startups. The Alliance also co-leads the NW Innovation Resource Center Bluetech/Cleantech Incubator – a place-based program that supports early emerging entrepreneurs in a region that is traditionally underrepresented in existing accelerators across the state. The CleanTech Alliance will partner with the NCW Tech Alliance, and use expertise from their existing programs, to expand business support opportunities for cleantech businesses

with operations in the Columbia Basin. The Alliance will also work with BATT partners to identify and develop curriculum models including ESG, CyberSecurity, access to capital, and other place-based components needed in the region.

Workforce Development programming, led by Big Bend Community College, will provide the skills needed to succeed in the entire battery value chain and allied technologies, from materials manufacturing to the design and assembly of high-power systems. The VIRT roadmaps will provide insight into sector-crossing workforce needs. The CleanTech Alliance also serves as the clean technology and energy sector leader for career connected learning workforce development for WA state and will connect Big Bend's work to the statewide network for access to program building funds, best practices, and networking. BATT will establish Learning Centers in Othello, Mattawa, and Quincy to provide career connected learning to high school students and adults, creating equitable access to education leading to high-wage, high-demand jobs for underserved individuals across the Columbia Basin. Additionally, the University of Washington will offer a 15 credit graduate certificate to STEM B.S. or higher degree holders that want to enter this field. The Testbeds will also provide unique industrial-scale training.

A broad consortium, with significant industry involvement, is developing the Tech Hub. The Consortium is led by the CleanTech Alliance, the largest trade association in the nation for clean technology, clean energy, and the circular economy, with more than 1000 member organizations in 17 U.S. states and 4 Canadian provinces. The Consortium also boasts a robust and engaged group of private companies invested in the BATT Tech Hub designation including Group 14 Technologies, Sila Nanotechnologies, Twelve Benefit Corporation, REC Silicon, and Obsidian Renewables.